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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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04333-0023

JAMES E. RIER, JR.  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VI.C.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: James E. Rier, Jr., Acting Commissioner\*

DATE: November 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Proposed changes to Chapter 115, "Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel"

BACKGROUND:

1. On September 15, 2012, Chapter 114 ("Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs") underwent changes. Among the approved amendments included the addition of a course in special education law to all administrative certificates that did not already require one. Accordingly, Chapter 115, Part II, must now be opened to revise the corresponding certification rules.
2. The summer and early fall of 2012 saw the State Board of Education react to a directive from Public Law 635: LD 1858 "An Act to Ensure Effective Teaching and School Leadership" and established an alternative pathways stakeholders group to review possible changes to Maine's certification regulations. The group made recommendations to the certification examination process for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers. The content knowledge exam would be replaced by industry credentials or industry-related exams. The pedagogical skills and knowledge assessment would be replaced by a series of four pedagogical courses. Also recommended is the requirement of a CTE orientation program for new teachers within the first year of employment. Transition language is included to allow those continuously certified under conditional certificates to continue under current rules, but all new CTE teachers would fall under the new rules from September 1, 2015, forward.

PROPOSED TIMELINE:

File with the Secretary of State's Office – November 18, 2013  
Posting – November 27, 2013  
Public Hearing – December 19, 2013  
Deadline for Comments – December 31, 2013  
Deadline for Response to Comments – January 3, 2014  
Provisional Adoption – January 15, 2014

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education's Certification and Higher Education Committee recommends that the State Board of Education initiate rulemaking to allow the proposed amendments listed above to be made to Chapter 115 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

\*Exhibit was prepared by Mark A. Cyr, Certification Coordinator